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PCT/FR2003/002511

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference H13386C36MLR	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/FR2003/002511	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 août 2003 (12.08.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 13 août 2002 (13.08.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B41C 1/10		
Applicant NOUEL, Jean-Marie		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
 2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13 février 2004 (13.02.2004)	Date of completion of this report 29 March 2004 (29.03.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/FR2003/002511

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
 pages _____ 1-16 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
 pages _____ 1-9 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the drawings:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/03/02511

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-9	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Method for copying a printing plate for wet offset printing, said plate comprising a substrate and a photosensitive layer that can be dissolved by a solvent, said method involving depositing droplets of the solvent in certain areas and rinsing the plate, thereby removing the loaded, inactive solvent.

The closest prior art (D1: WO 01/78984) describes a method for copying a printing plate for dry offset printing, said plate comprising a substrate, an ink-absorbing layer and an ink-repelling layer (silicone) that can be dissolved by a solvent, said method involving depositing droplets of the solvent in certain areas and rinsing the plate, thereby removing the loaded (still active) solvent.

Claim 1 differs from D1 by virtue of the following features:

- (i) it concerns a plate for wet offset printing (not dry offset printing);
- (ii) the surface layer is photosensitive (not made of silicone); and
- (iii) the loaded solvent is removed in an inactive

form (and therefore cannot continue dissolving during the removal process).

In view of these differences, claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)). Claims 2 to 9 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore likewise novel.

The objective problem of interest is that of providing a wet offset printing method in which a photosensitive layer is removed by the selective application of a solvent, said solvent not being able to cause defects (as a result of uncontrolled dissolution of the photosensitive layer) whilst being removed. Features (i) and (ii) could be adapted by a person skilled in the art, that is are obvious in view of D1 and the result to be achieved. However, feature (iii) is neither described in nor suggested by the prior art and is not obvious to a person skilled in the art. Consequently, claim 1, and dependent claims 2 to 9, involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

TRAITE DE COOPERATION EN MATIERE DE BREVETS

PCT

RAPPORT D'EXAMEN PRELIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL

(article 36 et règle 70 du PCT)

REC'D 30 MAR 2004

WIPO PCT

Référence du dossier du déposant ou du mandataire	POUR SUITE A DONNER voir la notification de transmission du rapport d'examen préliminaire International (formulaire PCT/PEA/416)	
Demande Internationale No. PCT/FR 03/02511	Date du dépôt International (jour/mois/année) 12.08.2003	Date de priorité (jour/mois/année) 13.08.2002
Classification Internationale des brevets (CIB) ou à la fois classification nationale et CIB B41C1/10		
Déposant NOUEL, Jean-Marie		

1. Le présent rapport d'examen préliminaire international, établi par l'administration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international, est transmis au déposant conformément à l'article 36.



2. Ce RAPPORT comprend 4 -feuilles-, y compris la présente feuille de couverture.

- ☐ Il est accompagné d'ANNEXES, c'est-à-dire de feuilles de la description, des revendications ou des dessins qui ont été modifiées et qui servent de base au présent rapport ou de feuilles contenant des rectifications faites auprès de l'administration chargée de l'examen préliminaire international (voir la règle 70.16 et l'instruction 607 des Instructions administratives du PCT).

Ces annexes comprennent feuilles.

3. Le présent rapport contient des indications et les pages correspondantes relatives aux points suivants :

- I ☒ Base de l'opinion
- II ☐ Priorité
- III ☐ Absence de formulation d'opinion quant à la nouveauté, l'activité inventive et la possibilité d'application industrielle
- IV ☐ Absence d'unité de l'invention
- V ☒ Déclaration motivée selon la règle 66.2(a)(ii) quant à la nouveauté, l'activité inventive et la possibilité d'application industrielle; citations et explications à l'appui de cette déclaration
- VI ☐ Certains documents cités
- VII ☐ Irrégularités dans la demande Internationale
- VIII ☐ Observations relatives à la demande internationale

Date de présentation de la demande d'examen préliminaire internationale 13.02.2004	Date d'achèvement du présent rapport 29.03.2004
Nom et adresse postale de l'administration chargée de l'examen préliminaire International  Office européen des brevets - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tél. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Fonctionnaire autorisé Martins Lopes, L N° de téléphone +31 70 340-2889 

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**RAPPORT D'EXAMEN
PRÉLIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL**

Demande internationale n° **PCT/FR 03/02511**

6. Observations complémentaires, le cas échéant :

V. Déclaration motivée selon l'article 35(2) quant à la nouveauté, l'activité inventive et la possibilité d'application industrielle; citations et explications à l'appui de cette déclaration

1. Déclaration

Nouveauté	Oui:	Revendications	1-9
	Non:	Revendications	
Activité inventive	Oui:	Revendications	1-9
	Non:	Revendications	
Possibilité d'application industrielle	Oui:	Revendications	1-9
	Non:	Revendications	

2. Citations et explications

voir feuille séparée

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Procédé pour copier une plaque d'impression destinée à l'offset humide, ladite plaque comprenant un substrat et une couche photosensible soluble dans un solvant, ledit procédé comprenant le dépôt de gouttelles dudit solvant à certains endroits, et le rincage de la plaque, éliminant ainsi le solvant chargé et inactif.

L'état de la technique le plus proche (D1: WO 01/78984) décrit un procédé pour copier une plaque d'impression destinée à l'offset sec, ladite plaque comprenant un substrat, une couche encrophile et une couche encrophobe (silicone) soluble dans un solvant, ledit procédé comprenant le dépôt de gouttelles dudit solvant à certains endroits, et le rincage de la plaque, éliminant ainsi le solvant chargé (et encore actif).

La revendication 1 se distingue de D1 par les caractéristiques suivantes:

- (i) - il s'agit d'une plaque destinée à l'offset humide (et non pas à l'offset sec);
- (ii) - la couche de surface est photosensible (et pas une couche en silicone);
- (iii) - le solvant chargé est éliminé dans une forme inactive (et donc ne peut pas continuer à dissoudre lors du processus d'élimination).

En vue de ces différences, la revendication 1 est nouvelle dans le sens de l'Article 33(2) PCT. Les revendications 2 à 9 sont dépendantes de la 1 et donc nouvelles également.

Le problème objectif à résoudre est de fournir un procédé pour l'offset humide dans lequel une couche photosensible est éliminée par apport sélectif d'un solvant, ledit solvant étant incapable de provoquer des défauts (par dissolution non contrôlée de la couche photosensible) lors de son élimination. Lesdites caractéristiques (i) et (ii) peuvent être adaptées par l'homme du métier, c'est-à-dire qu'elles sont évidentes en vue de D1 et en fonction du but à atteindre. Par contre, ladite caractéristique (iii), n'est ni décrite ni suggérée dans l'art antérieur, et elle ne ressort pas comme évidente pour l'homme du métier. De ce fait, la revendication 1, ainsi que les revendications dépendantes 2 à 9, impliquent une activité inventive dans le sens de l'Article 33(3) PCT.

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